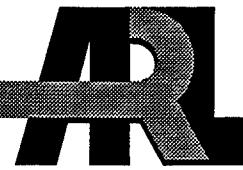


ARMY RESEARCH LABORATORY



# Modeling Ceramic Defeat Mechanisms and Variations in Ballistic Data

by Nevin L. Rupert  
and Fred I. Grace

ARL-TR-1670

May 1998

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# **Army Research Laboratory**

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## **Modeling Ceramic Defeat Mechanisms and Variations in Ballistic Data**

**Nevin L. Rupert, Fred I. Grace**  
Weapons and Materials Research Directorate, ARL

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## Abstract

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Bi-element or layered targets have been used to obtain depth-of-penetration (DOP) data so that performance of ceramic materials under ballistic impact can be evaluated. While the data have been particularly useful for ranking ceramics as possible armor candidates, interpretation of the data has been difficult and little insight into the dynamics and mechanisms of the penetration process has been obtained from such data. Prior analytical work into the penetration mechanics of ceramics by the authors included two important factors (i.e., a dynamic target interaction resulting from pressure wave reflection at the interface between target elements and a time-dependent damage mechanism describing the response of the ceramic material). In the present work, a “size” effect, known to be associated with ceramic behavior, and the introduction of a third process zone have been included in the analysis to address a portion of the variations (scatter) in the DOP test data. The analysis now includes results of the weakest-link theory in terms of the Weibull distribution and measured parameters for  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ . Calculated results are compared with the original data and prior analysis to provide relationships between all three mechanisms and indicate the influence of the size effect on the data.

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# 1. Introduction

The use of semi-infinite, bi-element targets in depth-of-penetration (DOP) tests initially arose from the need to determine the performance potential of ceramic materials under ballistic impact. However, since ceramics exhibit complex damage responses, interpretation of DOP results for ceramic/metal target combinations has been difficult. The previous work by Rupert and Grace (1993) and Grace and Rupert (1993) had identified a dynamic effect referred to as a “density” effect mechanism (Rupert and Grace 1994) for both metallic and ceramic appliques. This effect is the result of a pressure wave reflecting from a higher density second element and its associated material particle velocity, which moves back toward the penetrator. This motion enhances the penetration rate in the first element with corresponding reduction in penetrator erosion rate. Thus, a greater uneroded rod length reaches the bi-element interface, which produces greater penetration into the second element. When a second element has the lower density, an opposite condition exists. The relief wave moves material away from the penetrator, lowers penetration rates, increases rod erosion rates, and lowers uneroded rod length. In that case, penetration into the second element may be expected to be somewhat lower. This work demonstrates that significant target interactions are present in addition to specific time-dependent damage mechanisms inherent in the ceramic response. Through the analytical model (Grace and Rupert 1993; Grace 1993), the density effect and time-dependent mechanisms were separated so that the role of each factor could be evaluated. Even so, there appears to be some scatter in test results that could not be addressed by the inclusion of the previously mentioned dynamic interactions. Thus, the current work extends the model by introducing the Weibull (1939; 1951) distribution and a third process zone as initial steps in interpreting the upper and lower performance limits bounding the scatter in ceramic data.

An experimental process used to evaluate a ceramic is the DOP test as described by Woolsey, Mariano, and Kokidko (1989). Such tests make use of a well-characterized penetrator that is fired into a ceramic/ metal layered target (i.e., bi-element target), where the second element (i.e., metal) is sufficiently thick to be considered semi-infinite. The penetration depth (or DOP) is measured in the metal that is typically rolled homogeneous armor (RHA). DOP results can be compared with

penetration into a single-element, semi-infinite metal target. Quite often, DOP results show a considerable degree of inherit scatter, even where the dimensional tolerances for the targets and impact conditions are well controlled. A factor that can influence penetration in ceramics is strength. It is well known that the strength of ceramic materials, unlike metals, is limited by the size of inherent flaws through a Griffith's-type relationship (Griffith 1924). These flaws can vary considerably in size. (In addition, failure in a stressed ceramic component follows the weakest link theory, which states that failure is determined by the lowest stress at the most critical flaw that initiates crack growth.) This phenomena yields a size dependence of stress referred to as "size" effect (McClintock and Argon 1966). As a result, strengths tend to vary with ceramic thickness and require statistical description of this strength variation (Jadaan et al. 1991). Since strength is an important consideration in penetration, the variations in this parameter for ceramics need to be considered in analyses of ballistic tests. The current work describes how the Weibull distribution has been introduced into the previous penetration model (Rupert and Grace 1996) to describe the ceramics intrinsic variation in performance and compares the new results with experimental DOP data for  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ .

## 2. Statement of the Problem

Previous results for  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{RHA}$  targets impacted by a depleted uranium (DU) alloy penetrator are shown in Figure 1 to include the data (circled points) reported by Woolsey, Mariano, and Kokidko (1989) and the analysis of Grace and Rupert (1993). Woolsey identified four regions (as shown in Figure 2) based on changes in the graphical appearance of the data when DOP results vs. ceramic applique thickness are plotted. Grace and Rupert (1993) offered physical explanations as to what would cause the DOP data to change within these four regions. In region I, a dynamic target interaction effect is present and is the dominant defeat mechanism for thinner ceramic sections. The significant performance gains in region II were explained in terms of the ceramic acting initially as a nearly intact material. The slope of region II is determined by the introduction of the time-dependent damage mechanisms resulting in a mixed solid/granular flow and the rate of transition from mixed solid/granular flow to pure granular flow. Region III was defined as a region where pure

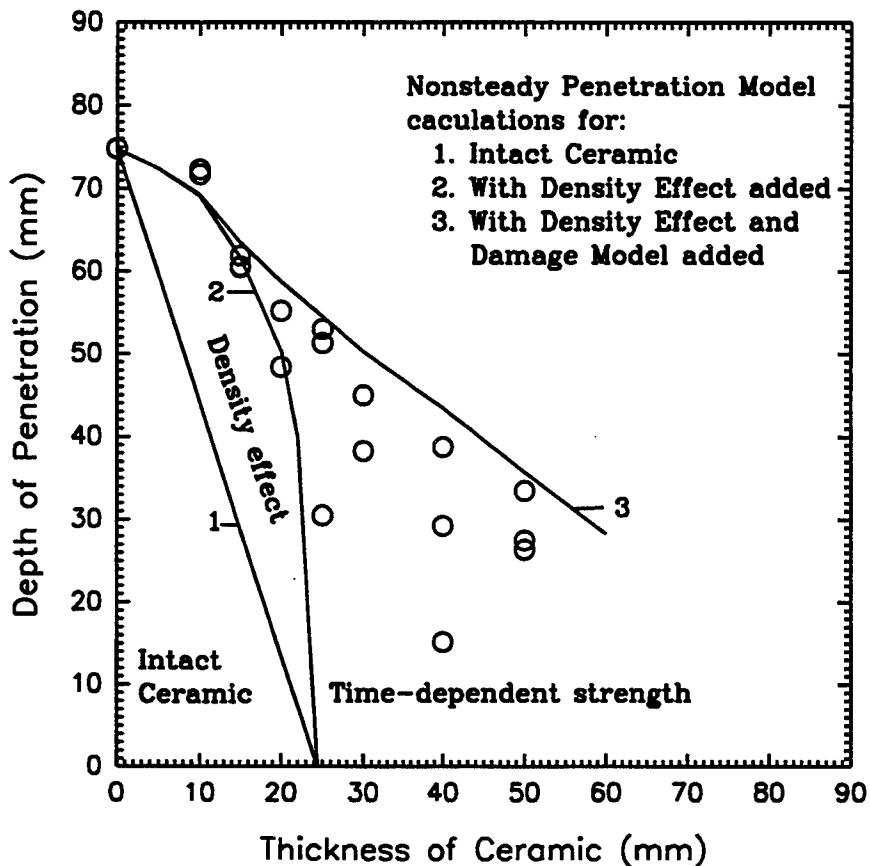


Figure 1. Model Results for  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{RHA}$  Against the 65-g L/D 10 Depleted Uranium Laboratory Penetrator at 1,500 m/s (Grace and Rupert 1993).

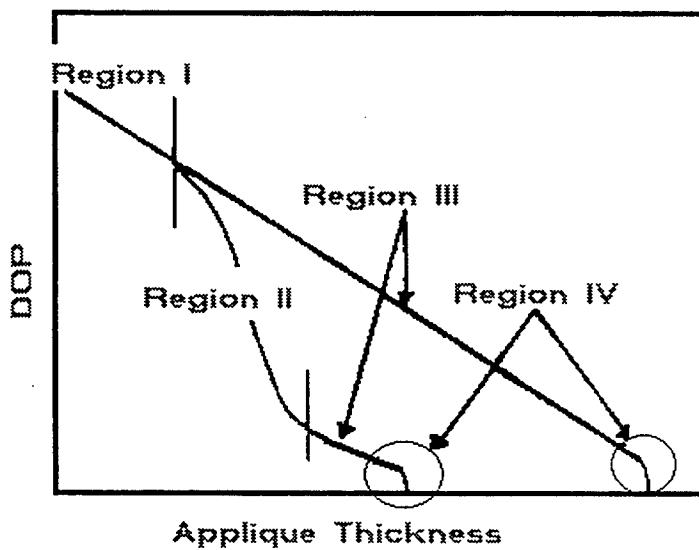


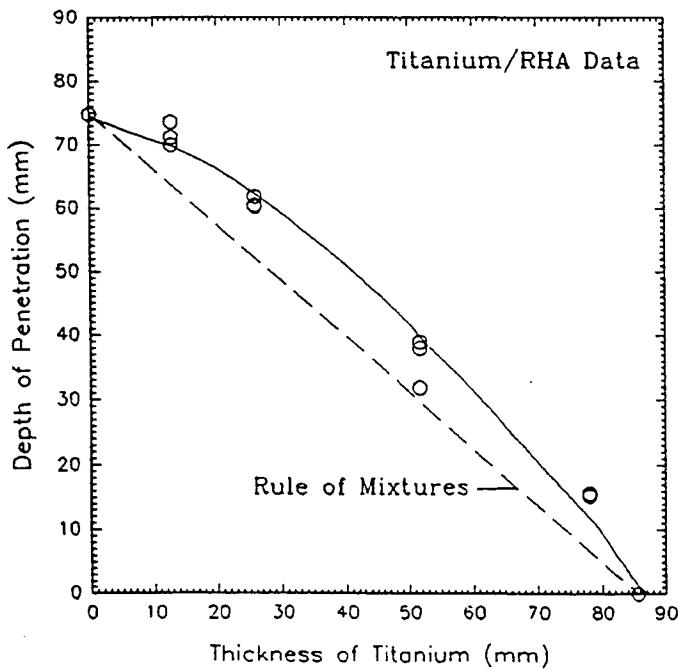
Figure 2. Generalized Performance Map for Ceramic DOP Tests Identifying the Four Regions of Performance.

granular flow becomes the dominant damage mechanism. Region IV is the termination phase where the unconsumed portion of rod traveling at low velocity abruptly decelerates and stops.

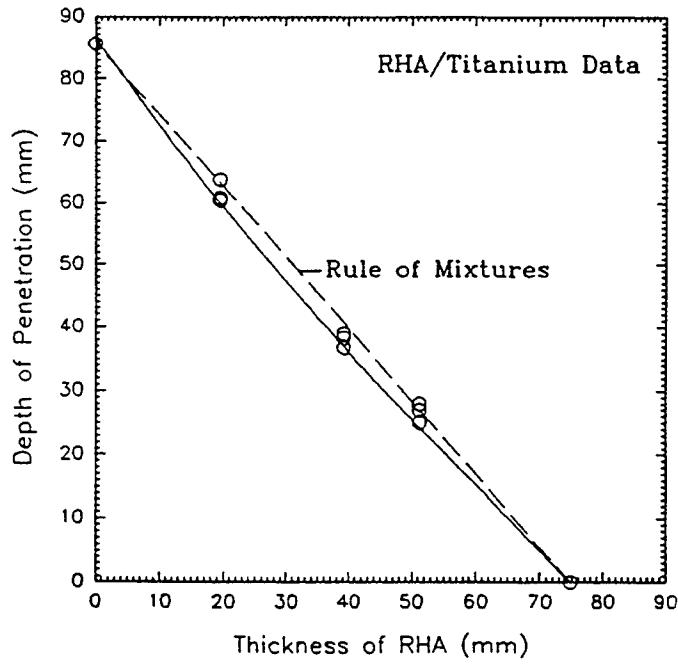
In previous work, Rupert and Grace (1993) experimentally investigated an all-metal, bi-element target of Ti alloy/RHA. These metallic targets exhibited similar behavior as that found in ceramic/metal targets associated with region I (see Figure 3). Further, this effect persisted throughout thickness increases mimicking regions II and III. Since the Ti alloy properties are essentially independent of thickness over the range of applique thickness tested in contrast to the time-dependent strength that can occur in ceramics, the effect in the ceramic could not be considered to be an outgrowth of strength degradation. Further, reversing the order of materials in the metal layers produced a slight reduction in the penetration rate and increased rod erosion rate. For these particular metals, reversing the material order reversed the material densities significantly, but did not change the strengths appreciably (see Figure 4). Thus, the observed effect was considered to be associated with the dynamics of target interaction involving mismatch of densities at the metal/metal interface.

In modeling bi-element ceramic/metal penetration, Grace and Rupert (1993) utilized both (1) the density effect, as described previously, and (2) a time-dependent damage concept for the ceramic (Curran et al. 1993; Cortés et al. 1992). The introduction of damage functions, together with the density effect, provided a penetration algorithm that produced the DOP performance envelopes for the ceramic as shown in Figure 1 (solid lines). The details of the calculations provided physical explanations for the regions as described in section 3.

Figure 1 also shows considerable scatter in the DOP test data that was not explained by the previous penetration model dynamic analysis. Thus, the problem of interest here is to address the variations in the data by taking into account, as a first step, the “size” effect described earlier together with the associated Weibull distribution and the introduction of a third process zone. The influence of these additional factors on the DOP performance envelope for  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ , as previously illustrated in Figure 1, is analyzed.



**Figure 3. Velocity Corrected Titanium/RHA DOP Data Against the 65-g L/D 10 Tungsten Laboratory Penetrator at 1,500 m/s (Rupert and Grace 1995).**



**Figure 4. Velocity Corrected RHA/Titanium DOP Data Against the 65-g L/D 10 Tungsten Laboratory Penetrator at 1,500 m/s (Rupert and Grace 1995).**

### 3. Review of the Penetration Analysis

**3.1 The Penetration Integral and Velocity Solutions.** The analytical approach to the DOP problem is an application of the nonsteady penetration development of Grace (1993). The theory deals with the penetration of long-rod penetrators into monolithic, semi-infinite targets. The application to DOP bi-element-type targets was provided by Grace and Rupert (1993). The geometry of the bi-element target is shown in Figure 5. Impact conditions are rod impact velocity  $v_s$ , initial rod length  $\ell_o$ , and first-element thickness  $a_o$ . The backup target, or second element, is semi-infinite metal. To begin penetration of the second layer, the velocity  $v_1$  and rod length  $\ell_1$  that exist at the interface between targets must be determined. These quantities depend, of course, upon rod length and velocity losses that occur during penetration through the first layer. For the bi-element target, it is assumed that the total penetration  $P_T$  in the overall target is the sum of that through each element. This gives

$$P_T = - \int_{\ell_o}^{\ell_1} \left( \frac{u}{v-u} \right)_1 d\ell - \int_{\ell_1}^{\ell_2} \left( \frac{u}{v-u} \right)_2 d\ell, \quad (1)$$

where  $u$  is the penetration rate,  $v$  is the penetrator velocity, and  $(u/(v-u))_1$  and  $(u/(v-u))_2$  are respective velocities for the two elements. When the penetrator can overmatch the first element, the first integral on the right-hand side of equation (1) is equal to the first element thickness, which is designated  $a_o$ . Therefore, the DOP or residual penetration  $P_r$  into the backup element is given in a straightforward way by the second integral (Grace 1993). Rod erosion  $v - u$  and target erosion  $u$  (penetration rate) in terms of rod length as the independent variable are given respectively as

$$v - u = (v_s - u_o) \left[ 1 + \frac{2S_p}{\rho_p (v_s - u_o)^2} \ln \left( \frac{\ell}{\ell_o} \right) \right]^{1/2}, \quad (2)$$

and

$$u = u_o \left[ 1 + \frac{2S_t}{\rho_t u_o^2} \ln \left( \frac{\ell}{\ell_o} \right) \right]^{1/2}, \quad (3)$$

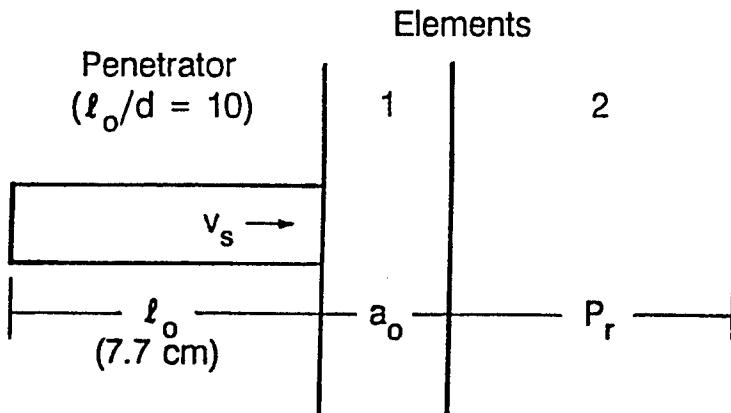


Figure 5. Geometry of Bi-Element-Type Targets.

where  $u_o$  is the initial penetration rate;  $\rho_p$  and  $\rho_t$  are the penetrator and target densities, respectively; and  $S_p$  and  $S_t$  are the effective penetrator and target strengths, respectively.

When solving equation (1), penetration into the first element is calculated stepwise using small increments of rod length as if the element were semi-infinite. The process continues up to the point where the penetration depth reaches  $a_o$ . At that point, the final values from the first integral ( $v_2$ ,  $u_2$ , and  $l_1$ ) are used to start the penetration process in the second layer. Since equations (3) and (4), as written, apply to the first element, their use for the second element requires  $v_s$ ,  $u_o$ , and  $l_0$  to be replaced with  $v_1$ ,  $u_1$ , and  $l_1$ . Further, appropriate strengths and densities for the corresponding elements must be included. To check on the validity of dividing the penetration integral into two parts as shown in equation (1), calculations were made for semi-infinite penetration into RHA/RHA- and Ti/Ti-layered targets throughout the entire range of first-layer thickness, and expected results were obtained. Further, accurate penetration depths were obtained for single, semi-infinite targets of both RHA and Ti alloy.

When using equation (1) for bi-element targets of different materials, Grace and Rupert (1993) found that the penetration process through the first-layer can be altered substantially from initial penetration in a semi-infinite target version of the first layer material. The changes are generated by

(1) overall effects of the proximate interface between target layers of different densities, and  
 (2) effects of the time-dependent damage mechanism giving rise to a strength loss if the first layer is a ceramic material. These effects were implemented in the first integral of equation (1) together with equations (2) and (3) through changes in the strength term ( $S_v$ ) for the target (which was modified to account for time-dependent damage), and changes in the initial penetration rate  $u_0$  (which was adjusted to account for the transient and interface reflection).

**3.2 Influence of the Proximate Target/Target Interface.** Penetration into the first element was calculated using previous methods (Grace and Rupert 1993) that account for the shock transient, due to impact at the target front surface and shock wave reflections, due to density and sound velocity changes across the target bi-element interface. Treating the first element as semi-infinite produces a penetration process that ignores possible influences, due to the properties of the backup material. This model uses a simplified version of one-dimensional shock wave propagation to treat the influence on penetration due to shock reflection from a proximate interface. An upper limit for the penetration rate is taken to be the particle velocity  $u_s$  associated with a shock wave that is generated by penetrator impact with element 1. Two well-known relations [equations (4) and (5)] from the theory of shock wave propagation are as follows:

$$p = \rho u U, \quad (4)$$

and

$$U = c + gu. \quad (5)$$

In these equations,  $p$  is the pressure,  $U$  is the shock velocity, and  $u$  is the particle velocity immediately behind the shock wave. Material properties are given by  $\rho$  as density,  $c$  as velocity of sound, and  $g$  as a material constant. Applying these two equations to the penetrator/target and bi-element target interfaces together with appropriate boundary conditions gives the following expressions used in the current model as

$$u_s = \frac{\rho_p / \rho_1}{1 + \rho_p / \rho_1} v_s, \quad (6)$$

and

$$u_r = (\rho_p / \rho_s) u_i, \quad (7)$$

where  $\rho_p$  is the rod density,  $u_r$  is the velocity of material reflected from the interface, and  $u_i$  is the incident material velocity. In equations (4) and (5), under simplifications, the sound speeds of the penetrator and targets are taken to be equal, and the variation of shock speed with particle velocity has been ignored. Upon impact, the initial penetration rate at the front surface  $u_s$  drops to a quasi-steady value  $u_o$  as penetration proceeds to a depth on the order of a penetrator diameter. The model permits the penetration rate to be increased or reduced from  $u_o$ . The change has the form

$$u_e = u_o + q (u_s - u_o), \quad (8)$$

where  $q (u_s - u_o)$  represents an increment of velocity change, and  $u_o$  is the initial penetration rate given by previous theory [Grace 1993, equation (25)]. The form of  $q$  is arbitrary and chosen to include influences generated by the transient, and the target/target interface is

$$q = \pm k \left( \frac{\rho_2}{\rho_1} \right) \left( \frac{P_1 + d - a_o}{P_1} \right)^2, \quad (9)$$

where  $d$  is rod diameter, and  $P_1$  is the DOP into a semi-infinite version of the first-element material. The last term on the right-hand side of equation (9) allows the correction to decrease as the reflective wave weakens, due to increased distance to the reflective boundary as a result of increased applique thicknesses. The ratio of densities across the interface that appears in equation (9) determines the magnitude of the reflected wave, and the sign change indicates the order of densities (positive when  $\rho_2 > \rho_1$ ) (Grace and Rupert 1993; Rupert and Grace 1994). The value for  $k$  is chosen so that  $q$  can not exceed  $q = 1$ , and the penetration rate of equation (8) can not exceed  $u_s$ . Equations (1), (2), (3), (8), and (9) give the penetration through the first element and the expected rod length and velocity to be used as starting values in the calculation for DOP as given by the second integral of equation (1).

**3.3 Time-Dependent Damage Model for Ceramic Strength Loss.** Under impact, the ceramic material is subjected to compressive stress at the penetrator/target interface. From this interface, compressive waves travel through the material and reflect from the backing material as compressive or tensile waves. Curran et al. (1993) and Cortés et al. (1992) indicate that the strength of the intact ceramic  $\tau_i$  increases linearly with hydrostatic stress according to

$$\tau_i = \tau_o + b\sigma, \quad (10)$$

where  $\tau_o$  is an ambient strength, and  $b$  is a strengthening coefficient. The strength of fully damaged or comminuted material  $\tau_c$  arises from friction only and increases with hydrostatic stress  $\sigma$  as

$$\tau_c = \mu\sigma. \quad (11)$$

The strength of the ceramic in a partially damaged state is derived from these two limiting states through a damage function. Cortés et al. (1992) explored the use of the following damage function [equation (12)] to determine the intermediate strength  $\tau$ . In their work, the function was interpreted as a mass fraction  $\eta$  of comminuted material within a given volume of material. This function was

$$\tau = (1 - \eta) \tau_i + \eta \tau_c. \quad (12)$$

Damage evolution is defined as the rate at which the fraction  $\eta$  evolves toward complete damage. The motivation for evolution develops from the applied hydrostatic stress,  $\sigma$ , above some initial level,  $\sigma_o$ , required for the onset of fracture. The evolution is given by

$$\dot{\eta} = \dot{\eta}_o (\sigma - \sigma_o), \quad (13)$$

where  $\dot{\eta}_o$  and  $\dot{\eta}$  are initial and subsequent time rates of change in the damage fraction as given by Cortés et al. (1992). Although damage evolution is a time-dependent phenomena, time was not explicitly included in their formula since the hydrocode used in their work provided a conditionally

determined stress-time history for each material cell during penetration. However, time dependence is included in this report through an explicit  $\sigma = \sigma(t)$  function.

The geometric description of the damage model developed by Grace and Rupert (1993) is given in Figure 6 wherein two process zones are defined. Impact of the penetrator with the target front surface produces several wave fronts to be propagated into the material. The first process zone (a) is a manifestation of a subsequent shear wave that defines a region of crazing. Pabst, Steeb, and Claussen (1978) define this process zone as a region of crack nucleation and subcritical, discontinuous crack extension. The maximum propagation rate  $w_o$  of the crack front boundary is assumed to be equivalent to the maximum individual crack velocity, which is related to the Rayleigh wave velocity. However, damage may be initiated by the longitudinal wave within the ceramic. The second process zone (b) is associated with the very highly pressurized region of flow stagnation at the penetrator-target interface. This comminuted zone of fine ceramic particles appears in front of the penetrator, and its influence on penetration has been investigated by Wilkins (1978). In general, the comminuted material has less strength than the intact material. The thickness of this high-pressure zone is taken to remain constant during penetration and to be on the order of a penetrator diameter  $d$ . Thus, the high-pressure region (front and rear) travels at the penetration rate  $u$ . Both process zone fronts initiate simultaneously at the target front surface upon contact by the penetrator. Thus, the time lapses for each zone to pass a given point  $P$  within the ceramic and lying along the penetration centerline are

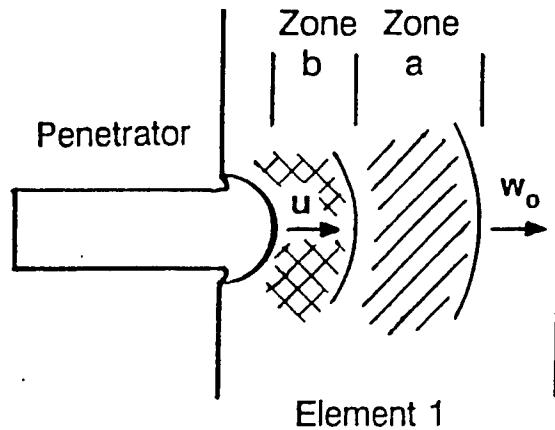
$$t_a = \left( \frac{P - d}{u} - \frac{P}{w_o} \right), \quad (14)$$

and

$$t_b = \frac{d}{u}, \quad (15)$$

where the subscripts refer to process zones (a) and (b), respectively, and  $d$  is the diameter of the penetrator. It is assumed that the damage evolution applies separately to each zone so that

$$\dot{\eta}_a = \dot{\eta}_{oa} (\sigma_a - \sigma_o), \quad (16)$$



**Figure 6. Illustration of the Initial Two Process Zones for the Ceramic Damage Model.**

and

$$\dot{\eta}_b = \dot{n}_{ob} \sigma_b(t), \quad (17)$$

where  $\sigma_a$  is the overstress taken as constant throughout zone a and  $\sigma(t)$  is the stress history of zone (b). For simplicity, it is assumed that the stress distribution in zone (b) is linear with distance within the zone and is also therefore linear with time. The stagnation stress (pressure)  $\sigma_s$  is estimated from application of Bernoulli's equation at a stagnation point on the nose of the penetrator due to target flow. Thus,

$$\sigma_b(t) = \sigma_s \left( \frac{t}{t_b} \right), \quad (18)$$

and

$$\sigma_s = \frac{1}{2} \rho_t u^2. \quad (19)$$

Equations (16) and (17) are integrated over the appropriate time intervals to get the damage fractions  $\eta_a$  and  $\eta_b$ . The total damage  $\eta$  at a particular point P is the sum of the cumulative damage in both zones so that

$$\eta = \dot{n}_{oa} (\sigma_a - \sigma_o) \left( \frac{P - d}{u} - \frac{P}{w_o} \right) + \frac{1}{4} \dot{n}_{ob} d \rho_t u. \quad (20)$$

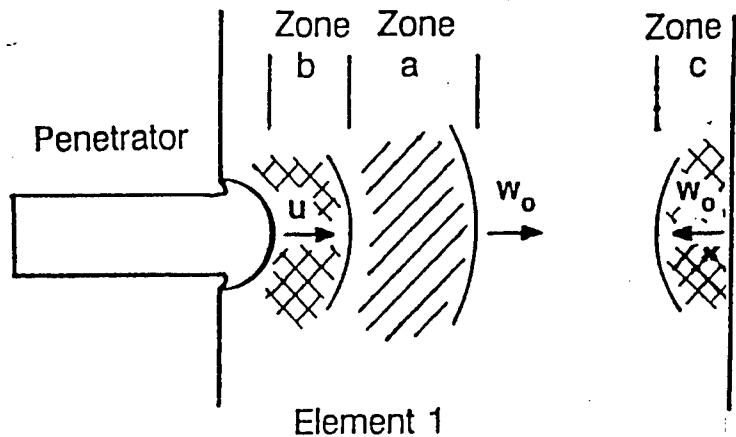
The damage function equation (20) combines with equation (12) to describe the nominal strength and the extent of ceramic material damage in the present model. For the ceramics, the nominal strength used in the model correlates with the ceramic's dynamic shear strength. This differs from metals, where the model's nominal strength correlates with the metal's dynamic compressive strength. This difference between metals and ceramics in the model's nominal strength selection may relate to the metals tendency to fail due to void nucleation and coalescence vs. the ceramic tendency to fail by means of shear localization. As such, the maximum and minimum shear strengths possible for the ceramic based on the Griffith (1924) brittle fracture criterion are

$$\tau_o = \sigma_{ult}/\sqrt{3}, \quad (21)$$

where  $\sigma_{ult}$  is either the ultimate compressive strength (maximum) or ultimate tensile strength (minimum). For ceramic material undergoing damage, equations (12) and (21) define  $S_t$  in equation (3) as the effective stress in the penetration analysis. The damage fraction is computed and  $S_t$  is adjusted continually during the numerical integration of the first integral in equation (1).

The analysis describes our efforts through 1993 (Grace and Rupert 1993). We now introduce a third process zone (c) to include the effect of wave reflection at the ceramic/metal interface. The existence of reflected waves and potential subsequent initiation of damage within ceramic targets has been experimentally observed by Hauver et al. (1993). The geometric description of the third process zone is given in Figure 7. At impact, a pressure wave is generated within the ceramic by the penetrator. Once this wave has passed through the ceramic, a reflection from the ceramic/metal interface may initiate the third process zone. The time lapse for third process zone to pass a given point P is

$$t_c = \frac{P - d}{u} - \left( \frac{a_o}{c_o} + \frac{a_o - P}{w_o} \right), \quad (22)$$



**Figure 7. Illustration of the Addition of Third Process Zone for the Ceramic Damage Model.**

where the subscript refers to the process zone (c). The damage evolution of process zone (c) is taken to be separate, but can contribute to the overall cumulative damage. Thus,

$$\dot{\eta}_c = \dot{\eta}_{oc} (\sigma_c - \sigma_o), \quad (23)$$

where  $\sigma_c$  is the over stress taken as a constant throughout zone (c). Equation (23) is integrated over the appropriate time interval to get the damage function  $\eta_c$ . The total damage  $\eta$  at a particular point P is the sum of the cumulative damage in all three zones so that equation (20) becomes

$$\eta = \dot{\eta}_{oa} (\sigma_a - \sigma_o) \left( \frac{P - d}{u} - \frac{P}{w_o} \right) + \frac{1}{4} \dot{\eta}_{ob} d \rho_t u + \dot{\eta}_{oc} (\sigma_c - \sigma_o) \left[ \frac{P - d}{u} - \left( \frac{a_o}{c_o} + \frac{a_o - P}{w_o} \right) \right]. \quad (24)$$

The damage function equation (24) combines with equation (12) to describe the shear strength and the extent of ceramic material damage in the present model when a third process zone is present.

#### 4. The Size Effect and Weibull Distribution

The Weibull distribution was used to model strength variations within the ceramic applique. The Weibull statistical analysis is based on the weakest link theory (Weibull 1939, 1951), which states

that failure is initiated by the lowest required stress at the most critical flaw. This phenomenon yields a size dependance of stress or size effect (McClintock and Argon 1966). In this theory, the probability of failure  $F$  can be related to the strength of a specimen through the two-parameter Weibull equation (Weibull 1951; Shih 1980)

$$F = 1 - e^{-\int \left(\frac{\sigma}{\sigma_0}\right)^m dV}, \quad (25)$$

where  $m$  is the Weibull modulus,  $\sigma_0$  is a characteristic strength of a unit-volume specimen tested in uniform tension, and  $\sigma$  is the applied stress.

The effective volume  $KV$ , or volume of material being tested effectively, is used to predict the strength distribution of one type or size of specimen from that of another. The effective volume is a function of the Weibull modulus and the geometric parameters of the specimen being studied. The effective volume expression can be described analytically for any specimen configuration that possesses a stress distribution that can also be described analytically. The effective volume can be derived for any configuration from the equation

$$KV = \int \left(\frac{\sigma}{\sigma_{\max}}\right)^{\frac{1}{m}} dV, \quad (26)$$

where  $\sigma$  is an appropriate expression for the stress distribution, and  $\sigma_{\max}$  is the maximum stress. In the case where the stress distribution cannot be described analytically, the effective volume can be computed numerically. Once the effective volume has been determined, the following equation can be used to predict strength levels of equal failure probabilities between specimens of the same material with different dimensions or geometries:

$$\frac{\sigma_1}{\sigma_2} = \left( \frac{KV_2}{KV_1} \right)^{\frac{1}{m}}, \quad (27)$$

where  $KV_1$  is the effective volume of the first specimen configuration and  $KV_2$  is the effective volume of the second (Jadaan et al. 1991). Further, transformation of the control volume from one probability of failure to an another is accomplished using

$$KV' = KV \frac{\ln(1 - F')}{\ln(1 - F)}, \quad (28)$$

where  $KV'$  is the new control volume at  $F'$  probability of failure (Johnson and Tucker 1989).

For a first-order approximation of the variation in strength within the ceramic applique, a simplifying assumption was made in regard to the application of the Weibull distribution. It was assumed that the dynamic strength variations within the applique were proportional to strength variations within the three-point bending specimens of the same length and width. This allowed the strength variations to be estimated by combining equations (27) and (28) without solving for the control volume associated with the penetrator target interaction. This resulted in

$$S_t' = \left( \frac{t_w \ln(1 - F')}{a_o \ln(1 - F)} \right)^{\frac{1}{m}} S_t, \quad (29)$$

where  $S_t$  is the dynamic strength,  $a_o$  is the applique thickness, and  $t_w$  is the three-point bending specimen's thickness used in determining the Weibull modulus. Thus, strength levels  $S_t'$  at given failure probabilities can be calculated for use in the penetration integral of equation (1).

## 5. Calculated Results

In this section, the previously developed models for the density effect and material damage are applied to the bi-element targets to first include the ceramic/metal model of Grace and Rupert (1993); second, the adaption of the Weibull distribution to describe the ceramic size effect; and third, the addition of the third process zone to complete the description of the upper and lower performance boundaries. In all cases, striking velocity  $v_s$  was 1,500 m/s. Basic material properties used in the initial model calculations are presented in Table 1.

Figure 1 provides a series of model calculations for the alumina/RHA bi-element target. For this target, a series of sequential calculations was conducted. First, to represent penetration into an idealized intact ceramic (undamaged), the nonsteady penetration theory as formulated previously

**Table 1. Material Properties Used in the Calculations**

Property	DU Alloy	RHA	Alumina
Density (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )	18.6	7.85	3.90
Nominal Strength (GPa)	1.38	1.06	2.00
Sound Velocity (m/s)	NU	5,876	10,700

NOTE: NU - not used.

(Grace 1993) was applied with no modification.  $S_t$  used in equation (3) was taken as the ceramic's nominal strength of 2.0 GPa from Cortés et al. (1993), which falls within the range discussed by Woodward (1989). The results are analogous to the rule of mixtures as presented in Rupert and Grace (1993). The second curve represents the addition of the density effect where  $k$  was set at 0.4. This curve is the expected upper performance bound for the alumina when backed by RHA. The region between curves 1 and 2 represent the predicted performance loss due to the density effect. Thus, the model suggests that data points lying on the second curve could be the result of the ceramic being in an intact state during penetration.

In Figure 1, curve 3 includes both the addition of density effect and the damage model to the calculations. For the damage model, the following constants were used:  $\dot{n}_{oa} = 5.0 * 10^{-4} \text{ Pa}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  (Cortés et al. 1992),  $\dot{n}_{ob} = 5.0 * 10^{-6} \text{ Pa}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ,  $\sigma_o = 100 \text{ MPa}$  (Cortés et al. 1992),  $\sigma_a = 200 \text{ MPa}$ ,  $w_o = 6,000 \text{ m/s}$  (McClintock and Argon 1966), and  $b = 0.1$  and  $\mu = 0.37$  (Curran et al. 1993). Curve 3 represents a predicted lower performance bound for alumina when backed by RHA. The model predicts that DOP data for alumina/RHA would fall between curves 2 and 3. The model with the time-dependent damage functions indicates that the amount of damage increases with ceramic thickness. Thus, ultimately, the penetration process can transition from a mixed solid/granular flow to one of pure granular flow.

Figures 8 and 9 provide the next series of model calculations for the alumina/RHA bi-element target with ceramic "size" effect taken into account. Calculations were made treating the ceramic layer as (1) intact ceramic with the size effect expressing failure strength in terms of a probabilities, and (2) the addition of the "density" effect to (1) in Figure 8. Adding the time-dependent damage

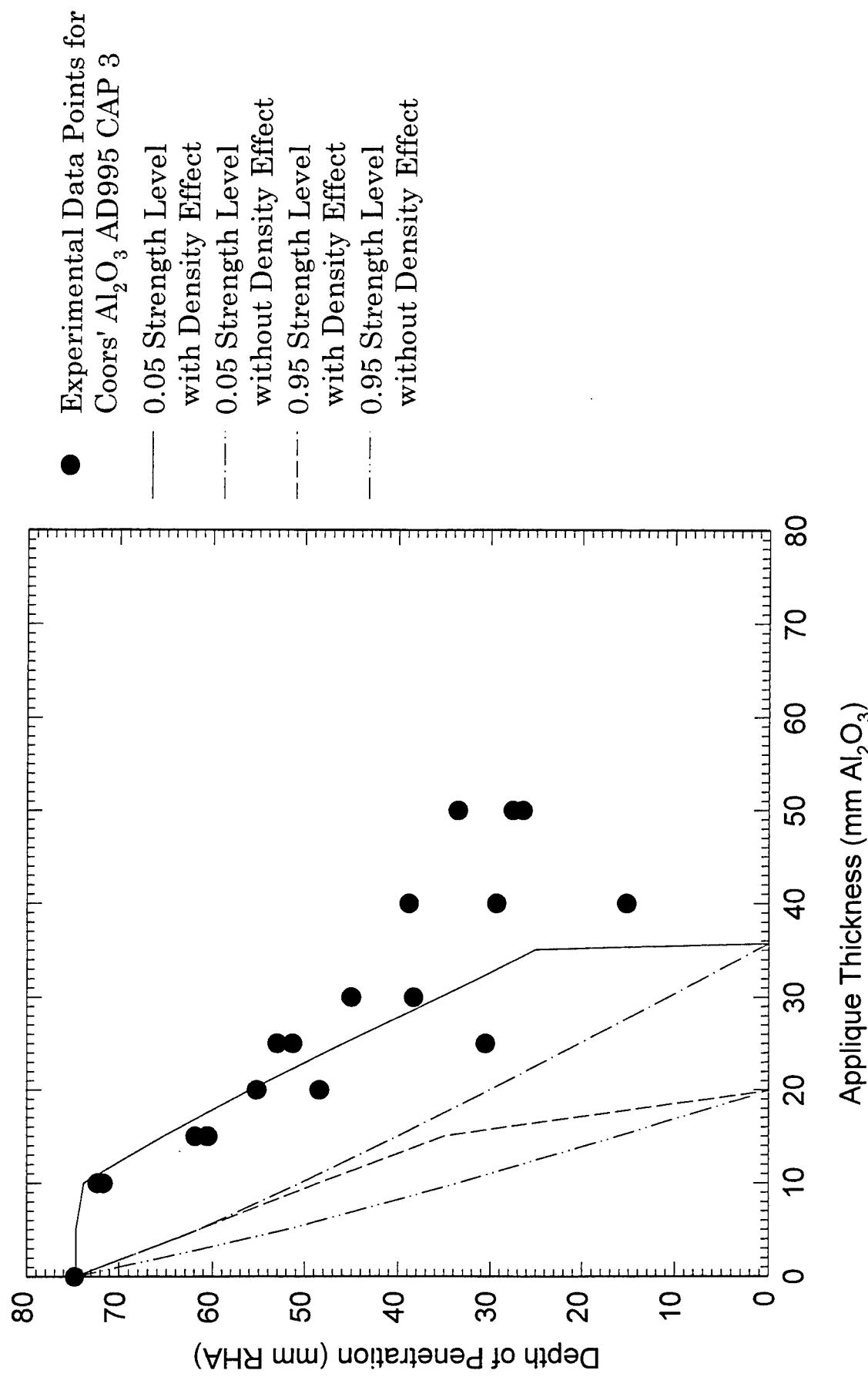
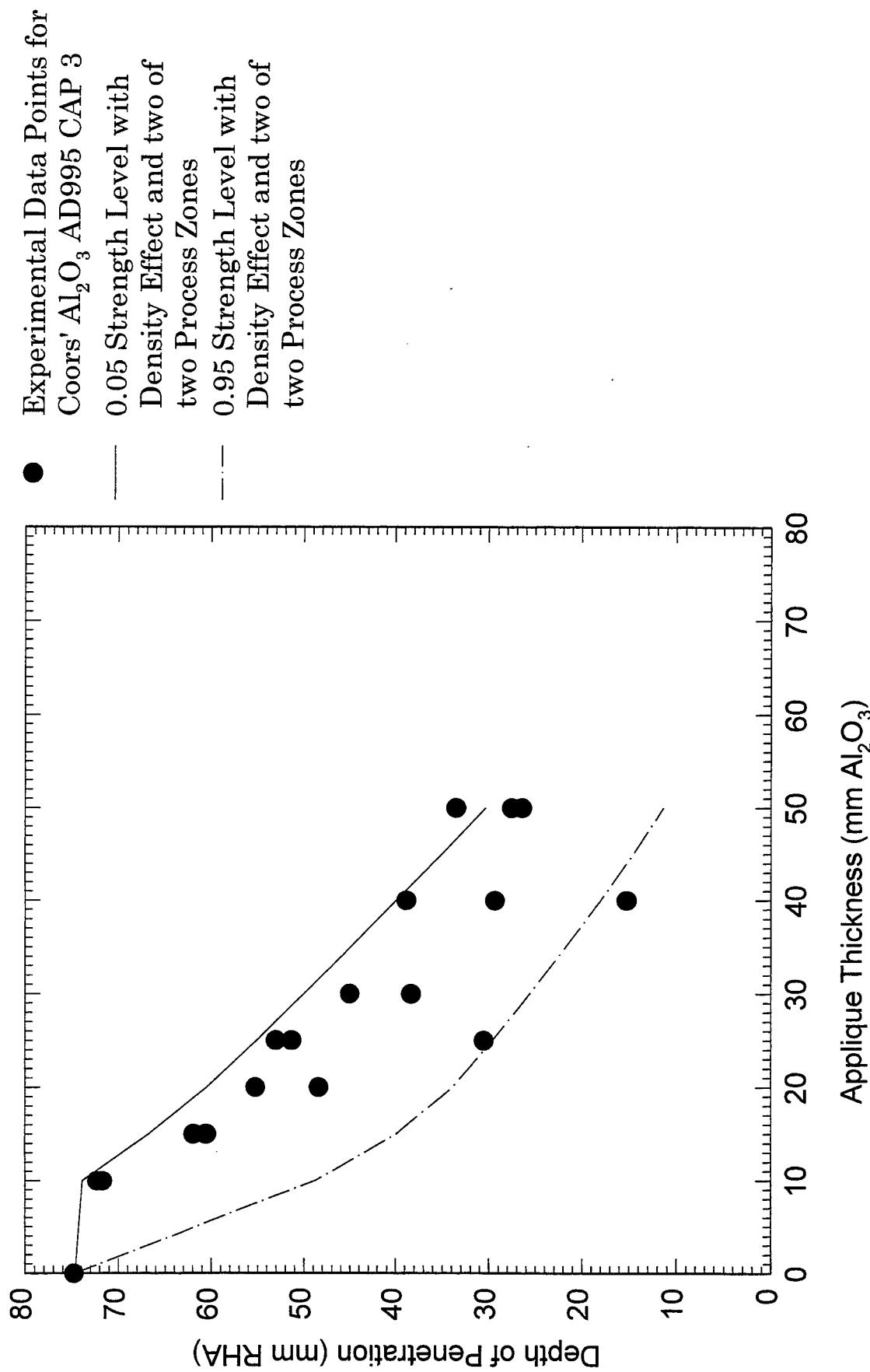


Figure 8. Modeling Results for Intact  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{RHA}$  With Ceramic “Size” Effect Added.

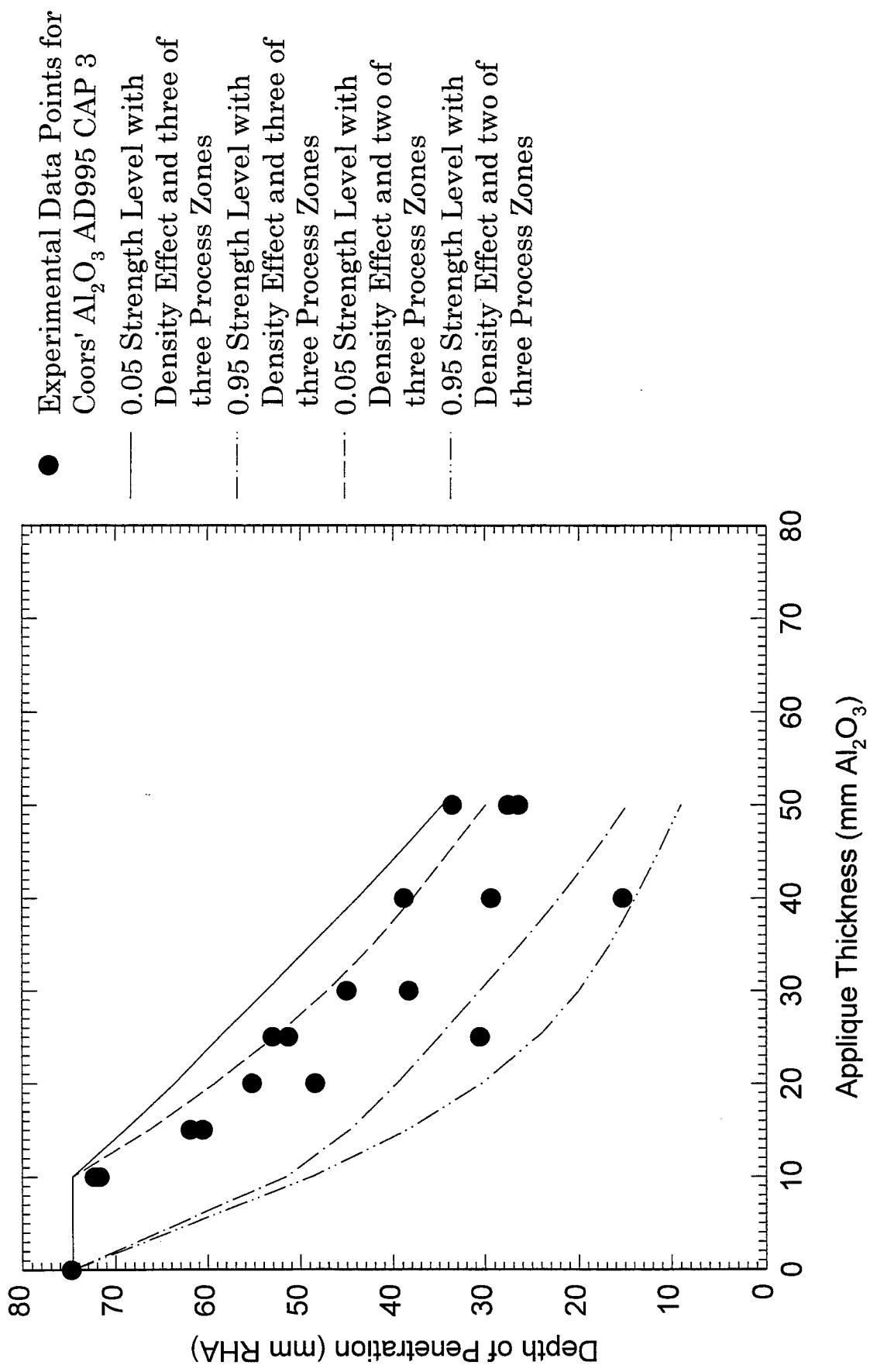


**Figure 9. Modeling Results for  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{RHA}$  With Ceramic “Size” Effect and Two Process Zones, Time-Dependent Strength Mechanism Added.**

mechanisms to (2) is shown in Figure 9. In all cases, striking velocity  $v_s$  was 1,500 m/s. The basic model parameters were not changed from the previous set of calculations with the exception of strength. Using equation (29), the ceramic strength ( $S_c$ ) was set to 2.40 GPa. This corresponds to setting the ceramic strength to  $\sigma_{ult}/\sqrt{3}$  for  $a_o = 25.4$  mm (the thickness of the compression sample used to determine the compressive strength) and  $F' = 0.50$ . The Weibull parameters used in the model were provided by Paricio (1996) as  $m = 12.13$ ,  $t_w = 1.78$  mm, and  $F = 0.50$ . The probabilities considered were  $F' = 0.95$  and  $F' = 0.05$ .

The first set of curves in Figure 8 shows the effect of the probability function for 0.95 and 0.05 intact strength on the predicted penetration. The second set of curves in Figure 8 represents the addition of the density effect on the strength at the two probability levels. Essentially, without the time-dependent mechanism, it would be expected that 90% of the data would be located between the two curves representing the intact ceramic with density effect added. In Figure 9 the time-dependent damage mechanism has been applied to the 0.95 and 0.05 probability levels. The curve at the 0.95 probability with the density effect and time-dependent damage mechanism forms the expected upper density effect as the upper bound as defined in prior work (Grace and Rupert 1993). The curve at the 0.05 is then used to define the lower performance bound for the ceramic response in the DOP tests (upper curve). Further, the analysis suggests that low ceramic performance at large thicknesses cannot be explained by the two process zone model with Weibull distribution and density effects alone. The shape of the lower performance limits indicates a lower value for the coefficient of friction may be required in the model. If the lower coefficient of friction was used in the time-dependent strength model with two process zones to match the data more closely, a greater under prediction of the upper performance bound would occur. Arbitrary adjustments to the strength, coefficient of friction and damage rates could result in a closer match to either performance boundary, but not both.

Figure 10 address the addition of a possible third process zone into the model's calculations. For these calculations, the coefficient of friction was set at  $\mu = 0.145$  (Curran et al. 1993). The damage rate for process zone (a) was equally divided between process zones (a) and (c);  $\dot{n}_{oa} = 2.5 * 10^{-4} \text{ Pa}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  and  $\dot{n}_{oc} = 2.5 * 10^{-4} \text{ Pa}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ . All other model parameters remained the same as in the



**Figure 10. Modeling Results for  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{RHA}$  With Ceramic “Size” Effect and Three Process Zones, Time-Dependent Strength Mechanism Added.**

previous two process zone model. In this version of the model, the upper performance bound was defined as the 0.95 probability curve with only process zones (a) and (b) engaged. This would represent the case of the highest strength and minimum ceramic damage. The lower performance bound was defined as the 0.05 probability curve with all three process zones contributing to the damage of the ceramic. This represents the minimum strength and maximum damage.

## 6. Conclusions

There are several important conclusions to be drawn from this work.

- (1) The evaluation of target materials using DOP testing should take into account the physical phenomena regarding material damage mechanisms and target interaction effects to include the shock-induced transient and wave reflection from target interfaces. Penetration models are needed to account for these effects and to separate the individual contributions. As an example, the current modeling effort explicitly illustrates that the density of the backup element is responsible for a significant target interaction effect, and this can alter ceramic performance substantially.
- (2) The modeling of the inherent scatter in ceramic DOP test results has been addressed by accounting for the “size” effect and the intermittent presence of a third process zone. Other factors, such as the scatter introduced by variations in the penetrator (impact velocity, Geometry, strength, etc.) and/or the precision in target fabrication, were not addressed. The ceramic size effect is effectively modeled by adjusting the ceramic’s nominal strength using the weakest link theory in terms of the Weibull distribution and measured parameters for the ceramic. The presence of or lack of the third process zone directly effects the scatter observed within the ceramic’s performance substantially. As an example, in the current modeling effort, it can be concluded that:

- ceramics modeled with higher Weibull modulus will inherently predict less scatter in ballistic performance (assuming everything else is equal) as a result of the lower strength variation in the ceramic,
- ceramics targets modeled without an intermittent third process zone will predict less scatter in ballistic performance (assuming everything else is equal),
- ceramics targets modeled without a third process zone will predict a superior upper performance limit compared to ceramic targets modeled with a third process zone (assuming everything else is equal), and
- ceramics targets modeled with a third process zone will predict a degraded lower performance limit compared to ceramic targets modeled without a third process zone (assuming everything else is equal).

(3) Any analysis used in the DOP tests for determining the performance potential of ceramic materials (or any material) under ballistic impact must go beyond recording the residual penetration in the second target element as a function of first element's thickness or areal density for a given impact velocity and penetrator. The analysis needs to be more detailed to determine the actual potential of the ceramic eliminating potential bias introduced through such choices as target geometry and the selection of second target element. With the more indepth analysis, the results from DOP tests become more relevant in predicting actual performance of the ceramic (or any material) in realistic armor systems. The model presented in this report is felt to provide a major step toward accomplishing the link between DOP tests and actual armor performance.

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1. AGENCY USE ONLY (Leave blank)	2. REPORT DATE	3. REPORT TYPE AND DATES COVERED	
	May 1998	Final, Oct 95 - Jan 97	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE		5. FUNDING NUMBERS	
Modeling Ceramic Defeat Mechanisms and Variations in Ballistic Data		AH80	
6. AUTHOR(S)			
Nevin L. Rupert and Fred I. Grace			
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)		8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
U.S. Army Research Laboratory ATTN: AMSRL-WM-TA Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21005-5069		ARL-TR-1670	
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAMES(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)		10. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY REPORT NUMBER	
11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES			
12a. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT		12b. DISTRIBUTION CODE	
Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.			
13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words)			
<p>Bi-element or layered targets have been used to obtain depth-of-penetration (DOP) data so that performance of ceramic materials under ballistic impact can be evaluated. While the data have been particularly useful for ranking ceramics as possible armor candidates, interpretation of the data has been difficult and little insight into the dynamics and mechanisms of the penetration process has been obtained from such data. Prior analytical work into the penetration mechanics of ceramics by the authors included two important factors (i.e., a dynamic target interaction resulting from pressure wave reflection at the interface between target elements and a time-dependent damage mechanism describing the response of the ceramic material). In the present work, a "size" effect, known to be associated with ceramic behavior, and the introduction of a third process zone have been included in the analysis to address a portion of the variations (scatter) in the DOP test data. The analysis now includes results of the weakest-link theory in terms of the Weibull distribution and measured parameters for <math>\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3</math>. Calculated results are compared with the original data and prior analysis to provide relationships between all three mechanisms and indicate the influence of the size effect on the data.</p>			
14. SUBJECT TERMS		15. NUMBER OF PAGES	
penetration modeling, Weibull distribution, Rupert-Grace penetration model, Grace-Tate penetration theory, depth-of-penetration tests, ceramics		44	
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17. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT	18. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE	19. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF ABSTRACT	20. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT
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